GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6399
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2000
SELF SUFFICIENCY IN POWER SECTOR
VIJAY GOEL

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any study in power generation system/technology of advanced countries like U.S.A.,Canada, U.K., Germany, France, Sweden, Australia, Japan and Singapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to adopt their system of generation and distribution of power in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the country self-sufficient in the power sector?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (d) : While the Government has not made any formal study of power generation system technology in various advanced countries, it is fully aware of the system and technologies in use.

In the conventional mode of generation almost all developed countries of the world have broadly three sources of generation namely, thermal, hydro and nuclear. They have also harnessed non-conventional energy sources, like wind, solar, biogas etc.

All the four types of generation mentioned above are also available in India. The installed capacity by the end of March, 2000 was 97,836.88 MW comprising 70186.16 MW thermal, 23816.01 MW hydro, 2680 MW nuclear and 1154.71 MW from wind.

During the last decade, a number of initiatives have been taken by the Government to improve the power position. It began with the amendment of Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 wherein private sector was allowed to invest in power generation. A series of measures have been taken thereafter in terms of streamlining the procedures and raising the limit of foreign equity participation in the power sector to promote investments in the power sector. The Government also announced hydel policy in 1998, a revised mega power policy in November, 1998 and further enacted the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Act, 1998 in order to give fillip to the transmission sector. Private sector participation in transmission was also made possible. Reforms and restructuring, of late, has been the thrust area of the Government wherein Central Electricity Regulatory Commission was set up in 1998 to rationalise tariffs. Separately, 14 other States have set up on their own regulatory commissions. The latest policy initiative of the Government is to under take 100% metering in a time bound manner and finish the entire process by the end of December, 2001. The Government has been encouraging the setting up of power projects through a transparent process of competitive bidding which ensures the supply and adoption of the most advanced and efficient generation and transmission technologies.